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Unofficial Translation

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date ☐ Declassify on ☐ Reason

Washington, D.C., January 18, 1980

Mr. Secretary:

I have the honor to convey to Your Excellency, the transcription of a message received from His Excellency the President of the Argentine Republic to His Excellency the President of the United States of America:

"Dear Mr. President:

I have received your letter of January 11, in which you inform me of your great concern regarding the events in Southwest Asia and their negative influence on world peace.

After carefully reading and pondering on the profound concepts of your communication with the rigor that the circumstances call for, I consider it essential to express some considerations which, in agreement with, your concerns, define the position of Argentina regarding the grave problem that has arisen.

We have known, in recent years, the impact of ideological and physical aggression of terrorism which, as no one ignores, constitutes a clear manifestation of the totalitarian advance on occidental civilization and its immanent values.

Our national community had to respond, through a constant struggle to that attack. This struggle was carried out in the midst of a general lack of international understanding and, even at the price of discredit and slander.

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The Honorable
Cyrus Vance
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

LOT 82D177

BOX 8114 (2/21)

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~~That is why, we are fully~~
aware of the dangers and the seriousness of
the present international situation. In addi-
tion to our deep convictions, Mr. President,
we carry the burden of a painful experience.

Hence, without hesitating
we have condemned the invasion of Afghan
territory and added our vote to the resolution
of the United Nations calling for the with-
drawal of all occupying troops. And, of
course, we will back up all future resolutions
adopted by International Organizations, aiming
to ensure the free self-determination of nations.

Which does not exclude, as
we expressed in our declaration of January 10,
the decision of not supporting measures taken
unilaterally and without consultation.

We fervently believe in the
West and its transcendental values which we are
ready to defend, in agreement with the tradi-
tions of our country, so timely brought to mind
by you, and our peoples love for freedom.

That is why, we value in its
full extent and in all its possibilities, the
joining of efforts that you rightly call for,
with the desire to serve, from our sovereign
position, the cause of peace, respect and
justice among nations.

Please accept, the assurances
of my highest consideration.

Teniente General Jorge Rafael Videla
President of the Argentine Republic

I avail myself of this opportunity to
renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest
consideration.

Jorge A. Aja Espil
Ambassador